An electronic copy of this Welcome Guide and other helpful information For new students is also available on our website

www.princeton.edu/intlctr
WELCOME to Princeton University!

On behalf of the entire staff of the Davis International Center, I send my warm wishes and congratulations on your acceptance to Princeton University!

The Davis International Center (Davis IC) is committed to providing services and programs that support the development and welfare of international students and scholars on multiple levels — immigration regulatory advising and processing, cultural adjustment, social enrichment, and assistance with practical matters related to living in the U.S.

The purpose of this guide is to provide you with helpful information as you prepare for your travels and begin your studies at Princeton University. Please read all of the information carefully. Keep it with you during your travels and during your first few weeks on campus. If you have any questions please email the Davis IC at intlctr@princeton.edu. We encourage you to check our website throughout the summer for additional information and updated announcements: www.princeton.edu/intlctr.

Once again, congratulations! We are eager to meet you!

Jacqueline Leighton
Director

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**Princeton University**
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**Office Hours:**
Monday through Friday
9:00 AM - 5:00 pm EDT

**Summer Office Hours (June-August):**
Monday through Friday
8:30 AM – 4:30 pm EDT
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CHAPTER 1: VISA AND IMMIGRATION CONCERNS FOR STUDENTS Outside the U.S.

A. BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME - DOCUMENTS & PROCEDURES

**Passport**
You must have a passport that will be valid for entry and reentry into the United States. The passport should be valid for at least 6 months following your arrival into the U.S. Citizens of some countries are exempt from this six-month rule but must have an unexpired passport at the time of entering the U.S. You can obtain a list of exempt countries at www.state.gov/documents/organization/104770.pdf. Students must a valid passport at all times.

If your passport will expire while you are in the U.S., you must apply for an extension prior to the expiration date through your country's Embassy/Consulate in the U.S. If your passport is lost or stolen, you should report it immediately to the local authorities and file for a replacement at your country’s Embassy/Consulate.

Canadian citizens must present a passport when entering or departing the U.S. by air. Canadian citizens entering or departing the U.S. by land or sea are required to present a single document that complies with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. You can obtain a list of the acceptable documents at www.getyouhome.gov

**Certificate of Visa Eligibility (I-20 Form or DS-2019 Form)**
Because you have accepted an offer of admission from Princeton University, you are being sent a Certificate of Visa Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019 form) to apply for a student visa.
- If an I-20 form is enclosed, you will apply for an F-1 visa.
- If a DS-2019 form is enclosed, you will apply for a J-1 visa.

Your document was created in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). SEVIS is a U.S. government internet-based reporting and document production system. Please review your I-20 or DS-2019 immediately. Make sure all information printed about you and your program of study is correct. If there are any errors, email the Davis International Center at puvisa@princeton.edu to determine whether or not a replacement document must be issued.

**Important reminders about your Certificate of Visa Eligibility:**
- F-1 and J-1 students may enter the U.S. up to but no more than thirty (30) days prior to the start date as noted on their I-20/DS-2019 form
- You are required to attend the school whose I-20/DS-2019 you used to obtain your visa
- Read the printed instructions on your I-20/DS-2019 form and sign it as required. Your I-20/DS-2019 is a very important document; keep it with your passport in a secure location at all times

**Arrival Date**
Note that you have been given a reporting date in item 5 of your I-20 form or item 3 of your DS-2019 form. You must arrive in Princeton no later than this date. Please note that the Online Course Sign-in begins on September 5, 2012 and classes begin on September 13, 2012.

**Late Arrival for Undergraduate Students** – If you are are unable to arrive on or before your program start date as indicated in item 5 on your I-20 form must contact Jacqueline Leighton, Director of Davis International Center, at jleighto@princeton.edu to request authorization to enter the U.S. at a later time.
Late Arrival for Graduate Students: The graduate student reporting date has been determined by your respective academic department. If you cannot arrive at Princeton by this program date, you must contact your academic department and request permission to arrive on a later date. If the department agrees to your late arrival, you should ask them for a letter stating that they have no objection to your late arrival. You may be required to show this letter to the U.S. Embassy/Consulate and/or the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials at the port of entry, so carry it with your other immigration documents when travelling.

Early Arrival for Graduate Students: If you plan to arrive earlier than the reporting date noted on your I-20 or DS-2019, you must contact the Housing Office (if you plan to live on campus) to make sure that your on-campus housing will be available at that time. More information about the Housing Office contact information can be found at www.princeton.edu/facilities/housing/graduate_info/

SEVIS Fee Payment
Applicants for F-1/J-1 student visas using I-20/DS-2019 forms to begin a new program are required to file form I-901 and to pay a $200 (for F-1 students) or $180 (for J-1 students) SEVIS fee BEFORE applying for an F-1 or J-1 visa. The SEVIS fee may be paid by credit or debit card directly at www.fmjfee.com or by check or money order mailed to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) along with the I-901 form. Further information about the SEVIS fee and the DHS I-901 form can be found at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) website at www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/.

Please note: Students transferring their F-1/J-1 records from another institution to Princeton are NOT required to pay the SEVIS fee.

Student Visa
In order to enter the U.S. as an F-1 or J-1 student, you are required to have a valid student visa stamp. A visa stamp is a multicolored computerized label affixed to a page in your passport by a U.S. Embassy/Consulate abroad, following a scheduled visa appointment.

Canadian citizens are not required to have a visa stamp to enter the U.S, but are required to have an I-20 or DS-2019 form and to pay the SEVIS fee.

Applying for a Visa
U.S. Education Advising Center: As you prepare to apply for your visa, you may wish to contact a U.S. Educational Advising Center in your home country. See www.educationusa.info for more information. The U.S. Educational Advising Center can give you helpful information about the application procedures in your home country. If possible, you may choose to attend a pre-departure orientation program organized by the Center; it will likely include information about applying for a visa as well as the American culture.

Visa Application Process: It is best to apply for the Student Visa at the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your home country. See www.usembassy.gov for a list of U.S. Embassies/Consulates’ websites where you can find specific instructions for the visa application. You will need to make an appointment and appear in person for your visa application. Generally, students are required to apply for the online DS-160 Visa Application Form and present the following documents when applying for a visa A link to the DS-160 form is available on the Embassy/Consulates’ website or at

- Valid Passport
- I-20 or DS-2019 Form
- SEVIS Fee Receipt Notice
- Documentation of Acceptance to Princeton University
  (For Undergraduate students, this is the Princeton University Admission Letter; For Graduate students, this is the Princeton University Admission Reply)
- Original or Notarized Copies of Guarantee of Financial Support
If you are receiving support from Princeton, you must show:

**Undergraduate Students:** Princeton University Financial Aid Award Letter. If you are fully funded by Princeton, and it is reflected as such in your Financial Aid Letter, then no other financial documentation is necessary.

**Graduate Students:** Princeton University Admission Reply. If you are fully funded by Princeton, and it is reflected as such on your Admission Reply, then no other financial documentation is necessary.

Personal Support: If you are not receiving support from Princeton, or need to supplement your support from Princeton, you will need to present additional documentation in the form of bank statements, letters of support from family, scholarship letters, etc.

**Visa Application Timeframe:** The exact application procedures and the amount of time required for processing the DS-160 application vary at each U.S. Embassy/Consulate. You should determine these procedures well in advance by consulting the U.S. Embassy/Consulate website in the country in which you plan to apply for a student visa. Information on visa wait times is also available at [www.travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html)

**Apply Early:** Students are encouraged to apply for their visa early to provide enough time for visa processing and any possible delays. You may apply for your visa as soon as you are prepared to do so. You should note that Embassies/Consulates are able to issue your student visa up to 120 days before the I-20/DS-2019 start date. If you apply for your visa more than 120 days prior to your start date as indicated on the I-20/DS-2019, the Embassy/Consulate will hold your application until it is able to issue the visa.

**Points to Remember for your Visa Interview:** To obtain an F-1 or J-1 visa, the U.S. consular officer must be convinced that you have non-immigrant intent; that is, that you have a residence abroad that you do not intend to abandon. You may be able to demonstrate this through family, educational, business, or financial ties to your home country. In addition, you should be prepared to answer questions about how your field of study relates to your future employment and career goals. You will find more information about Student Nonimmigrant Intent at: [www.travel.state.gov/visa/laws/telegrams/telegrams_2734.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/laws/telegrams/telegrams_2734.html)

**Security Clearances:** You should be aware that certain fields of study are considered “sensitive” by the U.S. Department of State (DOS). The Technology Alert List (TAL) describes critical fields that are considered sensitive, and outlines the procedures embassies and consulates must follow in issuing entry visas to prospective students whose areas of study or research coincide with fields on the list. These types of security procedures can take several weeks. If your visa application requires a security clearance (the U.S. Embassy/Consulate may call this “additional administrative processing”), your visa will not be issued until the clearance is received. Security clearances cannot be expedited by Princeton University or by U.S. Congressional intervention. Therefore, apply for your visa as early as possible. If your visa application requires a security clearance and it will result in a delay in your arrival, you should notify your academic department and the Davis IC. For more information on the TAL, please consult the last published DOS Cable on Use of Technology Alerts version available at [www.web.princeton.edu/sites/visa/tal.pdf](http://www.web.princeton.edu/sites/visa/tal.pdf).

**Please note:** All nationals of Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria are required to undergo security clearances every time they apply for a visa, regardless of their program of study.
Visa Denials

If your visa application is denied, you should request a written explanation of the denial from the U.S. Embassy/Consulate. The most common reason for visa denial is a failure to demonstrate non-immigrant intent. You may reapply for a visa at a later date. However, it is not advisable to simply resubmit the original application materials. You should only reapply if you are able to submit updated evidence that addresses the reason for the initial denial.

Please note: If the U.S. Embassy/Consulate indicates a problem with your visa application due to SEVIS reasons, contact the Davis IC immediately by email at puvisa@princeton.edu or by telephone at +001-609-258-1451.

F-1 versus J-1 Visa

Most international students study in the U.S. in F-1 student status. Princeton University issues I-20 forms for all students unless a financial sponsor such as the home country government, U.S. Government, or international organization requires a student to be a participant in the Exchange Visitor Program with a J-1 visa. The Exchange Visitor Program exists to promote international education and cultural exchange to develop mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries. To ensure the maximum benefits of the program, many J-1 students are subject to the “two-year home residence requirement.” Individuals subject to this requirement have restrictions on their ability to remain in the U.S. following the completion of their studies.

Further details are explained on page two of the DS-2019 form. If your financial sponsor required a J-1 visa, you will find enclosed a DS-2019 that you will use to apply for a J-1 visa.

Study Restrictions for B1/B2 Visitors Visas

DO NOT enter the U.S. as a visitor, either with a B-1 or a B-2 visa stamp if you plan to study at Princeton. In addition, if you are from a country whose citizens are eligible for the Visa Waiver Program, DO NOT enter the U.S. in a WT (waiver tourist) or WB (waiver business) status through the ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) program. Individuals in visitors visa status are NOT eligible to attend classes or engage in any employment while in the U.S.

If you enter as a visitor and apply for a change of status after arrival, you must wait until the change of status to F-1/J-1 is approved by DHS before beginning your program. A change of status inside the U.S. may take up to several months to process, and change of status applications submitted shortly after arrival are usually denied because they are considered visa fraud (entering the U.S. with a visa that does not accurately match your intention for entering the U.S.).

Extending or changing visa status within the U.S. from WT or WB to any other non-immigrant status is not possible under any circumstances. If you are coming to the U.S. to study, you should enter in F-1 or J-1 status.

B. Arrival at the U.S. Port of Entry

Be prepared to submit the following documents at the U.S. Port of Entry

Important: Carry these documents on your person. Do not check them in your baggage.

- Valid Passport with valid F-1 or J-1 Visa Stamp (Canadians are exempt from Visa requirement)
- I-94 Arrival/Departure Record (Prior to arrival in the U.S., you will be asked to complete an I-94 Arrival/Departure Record. Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears in your passport.)
- I-20 or DS-2019 Form
- SEVIS Fee Receipt Notice
- Documentation of Acceptance to Princeton University
(For Undergraduate students, this is the Princeton University Admission Letter; For Graduate students, this is the Princeton University Admission Reply)

- Original or Notarized Copies of Guarantee of Financial Support
  If you are receiving support from Princeton, you must show:
  **Undergraduate Students:** Princeton University Financial Aid Award Letter. If you are fully funded by Princeton, and it is reflected as such in your Financial Aid Letter, then no other financial documentation is necessary.
  **Graduate Students:** Princeton University Admission Reply. If you are fully funded by Princeton, and it is reflected as such on your Admission Reply, then no other financial documentation is necessary.

Personal Support: If you are not receiving support from Princeton, or need to supplement your support from Princeton, you will need to present additional documentation in the form of bank statements, letters of support from family, scholarship letters, etc.

For additional information, consult Arriving at a U.S. Port of Entry - What a Student Can Expect at www.ice.gov/sevis/factsheet/100104ent_stdtnt_fs.htm.

### Check the I-94 card for correct notations

Review your documents carefully at the immigration inspection station to make sure the proper information is noted. If any errors are made, politely ask for them to be corrected before leaving the port of entry. Making corrections later will be difficult and time consuming. Check to confirm the following has been properly noted on your I-94:

- The date of your arrival; the port of entry; and your nonimmigrant status (either F-1 or J-1). The I-94 card should also be marked D/S indicating you may remain in the U.S. for Duration of Status (D/S). The I-94 card should be stapled into your passport.

### What happens if you don’t have the proper documents at the Port of Entry?

If the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officer determines that you do not have the proper documents, he/she may issue Form I-515, a Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor, and require you to submit the proper documents to the DHS within 30 days of arrival. Your I-94 will be marked with an exact date of expiration instead of D/S. If you are issued a form I-515, you must report to the Davis IC with all of your documents immediately upon arriving on campus.

Contact the Davis IC immediately if you have encountered any problems at the Port of Entry. If there is an emergency and you need to contact us after regular business hours (9 AM through 5 PM EDT) please call Princeton Public Safety at (609) 258-3134.

All F-1 and J-1 students must check in at the Davis International Center at Princeton University within 15 days of their I-20/DS2019 start date. Please bring your passport, I-20/DS-2019, and I-94 card with you. You will not be able to complete the check-in process without these documents.
CHAPTER 2: Visa and Immigration Concerns for Students Already in the U.S.

**Students in F-1 or J-1 Status Transferring to Princeton from Another U.S. School**

**F-1 STUDENTS:** If you have transferred your F-1 SEVIS record from another U.S. school to Princeton, you have been issued a I-20 form with “Transfer Pending” indicated in Item 3. You can use this document to re-enter the U.S. after traveling abroad in the summer. After registering for the academic year, you will be issued another I-20 form indicating continued attendance in item 3.

**J-1 STUDENTS:** If you have transferred your J-1 SEVIS record for another US school to Princeton you have been issued a DS-2019 under Princeton’s sponsorship. Your transfer has been completed if you have received a DS-2019 from Princeton. No further action is required.

**GRADUATE STUDENTS:** May not begin an assistantship until you complete appropriate transfer procedures. In addition, you may not engage in any on-campus employment until your transfer has been completed.

**Old school Name on Visa after Transfer to Princeton**

If an F-1 or J-1 student has transferred to Princeton from another U.S. school, the visa will specify the school for which it was initially issued. In these instances, a student may re-enter after a "temporary absence" with an unexpired F-1 or J-1 visa and Form I-20 or DS-2091 from the new school without having the new school’s name on the visa.

**Students in other visa types**

Students who wish to study at Princeton in a visa type other than F-1 or J-1 student visa must ensure that their visa allows full-time studies and employment authorization.

If you are in the U.S. in another nonimmigrant status, you may change your status to F-1 or J-1 once you obtain an I-20 or DS-2019 Form from Princeton University. There are two ways to change your status to F-1 or J-1:

1) **Obtaining F-1/J-1 Status by Travel:** You will need to apply for an F-1 or J-1 visa at a U.S. Embassy/Consulate abroad. Once you obtain a visa, you will then enter the U.S. with your visa, your I-20 or DS-2019 form and other supporting documents. Please refer to Section A of this Guide for more information on a visa application procedures.

2) **Applying for a Change of Status Within the U.S.:** If you choose not to travel outside the U.S. to obtain an F-1 or J-1 visa, you will need to apply for a change of status to F-1/J-1 by submitting an application to USCIS from within the U.S. You may wish to consult with an immigration attorney to assist with your change of status application.

**B-1, B-2, or F-2 Status - Study and Employment Restrictions**

GRADUATE STUDENTS, please note that any on-campus work (including graduate assistantships) requires that you hold an immigration status that allows you to work. If you will need to change your status to accept an assistantship, or an on campus job, be aware that the application process can be lengthy (processing times vary greatly around the U.S. from 2 to 5 months) and you cannot begin your assistantship, or on campus job, until your change of status to F-1 or J-1 is approved. You must be in a proper immigration status in order to begin your program at Princeton. While it may be possible that you begin your program in other than F-1 or J-1 status, you will probably be required to change to F-1 or J-1 status at some point in the future. If your program requires that you work, you must have a visa status that allows you to work at Princeton to fulfill this requirement.
Please note: If you are currently in B-1, B-2 or F-2 status, you will not be allowed to begin your program before your change of status to F-1 or J-1 is approved.

- If you are currently in another visa status (dependent of G-4, J-2, L-2), you may be allowed to start your program, but you will not be able to hold an assistantship for teaching or research, or to accept any other type of on-campus employment before your change of status to F-1 or J-1 is approved or you obtain employment authorization from USCIS.
- Change of status applications are complex and you are strongly encouraged to seek competent advice before filing an application.

CHAPTER 3: Traveling to Princeton

Location and Travel Directions:
Princeton University is located in Princeton Borough, Mercer County, New Jersey, approximately 50 miles southwest of New York City; 35 miles southwest of Newark, New Jersey; and 45 miles northeast of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

For the latest travel directions to campus, please consult the Princeton University Travel webpage: www.princeton.edu/main/visiting/travel/

Airport Arrival Information
Although it is possible to reach Princeton from all of the nearby airports (JFK, LaGuardia, Liberty Newark, and Philadelphia), we recommend that you arrange arrival at Newark Liberty International Airport if possible. Newark Liberty Airport is the closest airport to campus and has easiest local access to Princeton. It is expensive and time consuming to travel from JFK, LaGuardia, and Philadelphia to Princeton.

Ground Transportation from JFK, LaGuardia or Philadelphia Airports: If you must arrive at one of the airports, you should consult the following web pages for information on local ground transportation to Princeton:

- For shuttle van service from JFK
  http://www.olympic-limo.com
- For connecting train service from Philadelphia
  http://www.septa.org/
- For connecting train service from all airports
- For bus transportation from JFK and LaGuardia through Manhattan to NJ
  http://www.panynj.gov/

Ground Transportation Via the Olympic Air Porter / State Shuttle from Newark Liberty International Airport to Princeton
Arrival at Newark International Airport (EWR) is the most convenient for travel to Princeton University. To get from the airport to Princeton you may use:
- Olympic Air Porter/State Shuttle http://www.olympic-limo.com

Olympic Air Porter State Shuttle is a seven-day-a-week shuttle that offers a shared van ride service. You may make an advance reservation for the shuttle service or make a reservation on arrival at the airport. If you do not make an advance reservation, upon arrival at Newark Airport, you should go to the baggage claim area in the Arrivals area of the terminal. Claim your baggage and locate the Ground Transportation Counter. Go to the Counter and make your reservation on State Shuttle with the agent at the Counter. If the Counter is closed call 800-822-9797 and a State Shuttle representative will take your reservation on a space-available basis.
The one-way cost from Newark to Princeton is around $33 per person. The trip takes about 1½ to 2 hours. State Shuttle vans have various drop-off locations between Newark Airport and Princeton. Most students arriving in Princeton by Airporter shuttle van should request to be dropped off at the Nassau Inn in Palmer Square just off Nassau Street where you can find a taxi to take you and your luggage to your residential college. Palmer Square is in the center of town and opposite the main entrance to Princeton University. Shuttle vans also drop passengers off at various local hotels.

If you will be traveling with a lot of luggage, particularly during peak travel hours, the Airporter is probably the best travel option to get to Princeton.

Please note: The Airporter does pick up from JFK airport, but the trip is longer (2 ½ to 3 hours) and more expensive (around $45 one way) than from Newark Airport.

### Train Transportation from Newark Liberty International Airport

Passengers arriving at Newark International Airport (EWR) can take the AirTrain Newark directly from the arrivals terminal to the Rail Link station and then connect with NJ Transit for rail travel to Princeton. Ticket vending machines for New Jersey Transit are available at AirTrain Newark stations located in the airport passenger terminals. The one-way cost to Princeton Junction is about $16. You may want to purchase a ticket through to Princeton which will cost about $18. Please note that it is best to purchase tickets at vending machines prior to boarding the train. If you purchase a ticket on board, you will be assessed an additional $5 surcharge. Also, conductors on board the train will not accept bills over $20. The trip is about 5 to 15 minutes from the airport terminal to the NJ Transit Newark Airport Station. At this station, you will transfer to a NJ Transit (not Amtrak) train bound for Trenton. You will ride this train for about 45 minutes to Princeton Junction.

To get to Princeton University from Princeton Junction, you may take a small commuter train referred to as the “Dinky” (also NJ Transit), which is about a 5-minute ride to campus. Dinky service is limited late at night and on weekends. There are also taxicabs available at Princeton Junction train station. Taxi information is on the next page.

Please note: The last “Dinky” departs Princeton Junction train station around 1 AM and New Jersey Transit usually coordinates train arrival times with Dinky departures. Other than the Dinky, there is no public transportation between the Princeton Junction train station and downtown Princeton Borough at this time, so you may choose to take a taxi, if you prefer.

### Princeton Taxis

Travelers who miss the 12:47 AM “Dinky” train from Princeton Junction to Princeton or who have a lot of luggage may take a taxi to Princeton. Taxis are usually available at the Princeton Junction station, but if necessary, you may call:

- Triple A Taxi: (609) 921-1177
- Taxi Stand: (609) 924-1222
- Princeton Taxi: (609) 882-5606
- A Local Taxi: (609) 924-7300

Taxi fare from Princeton Junction to Princeton Borough is approximately $15-$20 plus a 15% driver’s tip. Verify the fare and pickup locations with the taxi dispatcher when you call, as there are two sides to the train tracks (northbound and southbound), each with separate taxi pick-up locations.

Traveling Safe

While traveling, you should keep money, passports, travel and visa documents, jewelry, and other valuables on you at all times. You are advised not to leave luggage unattended. We recommend that you do not leave items of value and importance in your luggage, locked automobiles, or airport or train station storage lockers. Be sure to monitor your belongings!

If you have an emergency, you should seek airport security or the nearest Travelers Aid Society representative during business hours. The Travelers Aid Society telephone numbers are: Newark Airport: (973) 623-5052; JFK Airport: (718) 656-4870; Philadelphia Airport: (215) 523-7580.

CHAPTER 4: After Arrival at Princeton

IMPORTANT: Student Check-In Requirement

All F-1/J-1 students are required to check in at the Davis International Center at Princeton University within 15 days of their I-20/DS-2019 program start date.

Please bring your passport, I-94 Arrival/Departure card and the I-20/DS-2019 with you. You will not be able to complete the check-in process without these documents.

On-line Sign-In for Course Registration

All F-1 and J-1 students are required to register with the University each fall semester. All students can register on-line beginning September 5.

Change of Address – Student Reporting Requirement

Local U.S. Address: All F-1 and J-1 students are required to report any change of local U.S. address to SEVIS within 10 days of moving to another address. Students must update their address in the online SCORE system. The Davis IC will receive automatic notice of your new address and will then report the change to SEVIS on your behalf.

Permanent Home Country Address: All F-1 and J-1 students are also required to report any change of their permanent address in their home country in the online SCORE system.

CHAPTER 5: International Orientation

Undergraduate International Orientation

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, August 29 - Saturday, September 1, 2012

Undergraduate International Orientation (IO) is a three-day program that occurs immediately prior to Outdoor Action and Community Action. You may find more information about the date, time, and locations of the Undergraduate International Orientation on our website at www.princeton.edu/intlctr

If you plan to attend International Orientation, the earliest date that you may arrive on campus and move into your room is Check-In Day, Wednesday, August 29, 2012 from 9:00a-12:00a. There will be no early check-ins allowed before August 29th.

Please note: If you arrive in Princeton before Check-In Day, you will need to arrange alternate accommodations. For a listing of nearby hotels, please see the Local Hotel Accommodations section of this Welcome Guide.
Graduate International Orientation

SAVE THE DATE!
Wednesday, September 5 – Saturday, September 8, 2012

Graduate International Orientation (GIO) occurs immediately before the general graduate student orientation program conducted by the Graduate School. The Graduate School Orientation is scheduled for Monday, September 10, 2012.

You may find more information about the date, time, location, and agenda of the Graduate International Orientation on our website at www.princeton.edu/intlctr.

Please note: Graduate students who wish to arrive early must consult with the graduate student housing office about their move-in date (see chapter 6).

Remember to check out the Facebook page: Princeton Graduate International Students - http://www.facebook.com/groups/princetongradintl/

CHAPTER 6: Housing Information

Undergraduate Student Housing

Housing Assignment: As an incoming member of the Freshman class, you will live in one of the six Residential Colleges during your freshmen year. Your roommate and Residential College assignment is contained in an e-mail sent to your Princeton e-mail address in the summer before your arrival at Princeton. Check the announcements section of your Welcome Class site http://www.princeton.edu/welcometigers/ for the exact date of this e-mail - usually on or around July 15. You will need your Princeton NetID and password to access your princeton.edu e-mail account. Questions about your NetID and password can be answered by the OIT Help Desk at helpdesk@princeton.edu

Check In/Room Key Pick Up: If you arrive in Princeton on August 29 for the Undergraduate International Orientation, you will pick up your key during Orientation check-in. Additional information about Orientation check-in will be on our website in the coming weeks. If you arrive at any other date during business hours (9a – 4:30p), keys can be picked at the Housing Office, located in the New South Building. After business hours, you can contact Princeton Public Safety. A Public Safety Officer will give you access to your dormitory room. On the following business day, you should visit the Housing Office to pick up your key and sign in. For additional information and assistance, please visit the Undergraduate Housing Office website http://www.princeton.edu/facilities/housing/undergraduate_info/.

Graduate Student Housing

The Graduate Housing Department will send the contract for an apartment or a dormitory with arrival instructions to all Graduate students who have made prior arrangements for on-campus housing. Please consult these instructions for specific arrival information. Further information can be found on the Graduate Housing Office website http://www.princeton.edu/facilities/housing/graduate_info/.

Housing Key Pick-Up: If you arrive in Princeton during business hours, Monday through Friday 9a – 4:30p, keys can be picked at the Housing Office, located in the New South Building. After hours, keys can be picked up at Public Safety, located at 200 Elm Drive. You will need to pay a security deposit prior to key pick up. For more information regarding your housing assignment and procedures, please visit the Graduate Student Housing website http://www.princeton.edu/facilities/housing/graduate_info/.
CHAPTER 7: Local Hotel Accommodations

If you do not have confirmed housing arrangements on campus before arrival or if there will be a delay moving into your housing, you may need to stay in a local hotel until your housing move-in date. If so, you should make reservations in advance. If you mention that you are a Princeton student, some hotel establishments may offer you discounted rates. Also, several hotels offer additional services, such as shuttles to town and free breakfasts. Inquire about amenities when making reservations. Hotels listed below have a restaurant on the premises, or within easy walking distance. Hotels marked with an asterisk (*) also are drop-off points for the Olympic Airporter State Shuttle Service (see Traveling to Princeton section of this Welcome Packet for information about the Olympic Shuttle).

Located In Town:
- Nassau Inn Palmer Square* (walking distance to campus); Phone (609) 921-7500

Located on Route 1 North of Princeton:
- Courtyard by Marriott* (1 mile); Phone (609) 716-9100
- Hampton Inn* (3 miles); (609) 951-0066
- Days Inn (5 miles); (732) 985-2666
- Doral Forrestal Hotel/Spa* (5 miles); (609) 452-7800
- Holiday Inn* (6 miles); (609) 520-1200
- Radisson* (6 miles); (609) 452-2400
- Westin Princeton at Forrestal* (5 miles); (609) 452-7900

Located on Route 1 South of Princeton:
- Hyatt Place* (3 miles); (609) 720-0200
- Clarion Hotel Palmer Inn (3 miles); (609) 452-2500
- Hyatt Regency* (1.5 miles); (609) 987-1234
- Comfort Inn (3 miles); (609) 896-3700

CHAPTER 8: Additional Practical Information

Student Health Insurance
Every student is required to have health insurance coverage while enrolled at Princeton University. This health insurance must cover off-campus specialty care and hospitalization not provided by the University Health Services (UHS) [http://www.princeton.edu/uhs/](http://www.princeton.edu/uhs/). All students are automatically enrolled in the Princeton University Student Health Plan (SHP). All costs associated with the SHP and the services at UHS are included in the total tuition and required fees.

Dental & Vision Plan
Students may also choose to participate in and pay for, optional vision and dental plans that provide benefits beyond those included in the Student Health Plan. For further information, see the UHS website [http://www.princeton.edu/uhs/](http://www.princeton.edu/uhs/).

Medical Records for Students and their Dependents
Bring copies of your medical records and the medical records of your dependents (if any) who are coming with you. You should keep them with other important documents so they will be on hand if necessary. Please note: All medical records should be translated into English before coming to the U.S.
Preserving Your Mental and Physical Health
As a student, you will spend a great deal of time caring for yourself academically and socially; however, the university provides a number of services designed to keep students physically and mentally healthy. University Health Services (UHS) [http://www.princeton.edu/uhs](http://www.princeton.edu/uhs) offers several services to students, ranging from outpatient services to counseling and psychological services.

For a full listing of services offered by UHS and the McCosh Health Center please visit: [http://www.princeton.edu/~pumap/buildings/27.html](http://www.princeton.edu/~pumap/buildings/27.html).
Health Care and Princeton University Health Services will be discussed in more detail during the International Student Orientations.

Adjustment to the U.S. Culture
Coming to the U.S. to live and study can be an exciting and challenging experience. Learning to function in a new culture is not easy, and it is natural to feel anxious and frustrated at times. Those feelings are a normal part of the experience. However, the more you put into the experience, the more you'll learn from it. Make an effort to meet new people, form friendships, and get involved.

Check the Davis IC website throughout the summer for more information about living in the U.S. at [http://www.princeton.edu/intlctr](http://www.princeton.edu/intlctr).

Climate in New Jersey
New Jersey is a mid-Atlantic state, so you should come prepared for variable weather: very cold winters, hot summers, and pleasant days in between (fall and spring). The temperature may frequently drop to between 5 and 10 degrees Fahrenheit (-12 to -15 degrees Celsius) in the winter, with high temperatures 90 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit (32 to 35 degrees Celsius) and high humidity in the summer.

What to Pack
You should carefully plan what items to bring with you and what you can wait to purchase after you arrive in Princeton. Factors to take into consideration include: cost of shipping, additional baggage charges, immediate need, and cost differential.

You should plan to have warm clothing for the colder months (late October through April), including sweaters, a heavy coat, hat, gloves, scarf and warm boots/shoes; a hooded raincoat is also recommended. For the warmer months (late April-September) you should plan for cooler clothing, including shorts, skirts, t-shirts, and tank tops.

For special occasions and events, it is recommended that students have formal/semi-formal attire, which may include a suit, shirt and tie, formal dress and evening wear. Students generally wear informal clothing such as slacks, sweatshirts, sweaters, blouses, blue jeans, and shirts are acceptable for women as well as men. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Where to Shop
In the town of Princeton, there are several places to shop for clothing and other supplies, but it can be expensive at stores such as Ralph Lauren, J. Crew, Banana Republic, Ann Taylor, and Coach. For more information about shopping in town, you can reference the Student Guide to Princeton [http://www.princeton.edu/studentguide/outsidethegates/shopping_services/](http://www.princeton.edu/studentguide/outsidethegates/shopping_services/).
Baggage & Mail
We regret that the Davis IC cannot accept or store baggage for students. Therefore, please do not send any items to our office. When mailing clothes and other items to campus, mark the package(s) “used personal effects” as this will facilitate customs clearance. Any items that must be shipped should be timed for delivery after you have arrived in Princeton. Please contact a U.S. Consulate or Embassy for customs regulations and restrictions on property brought to the U.S. You may also consult the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) website http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/.

Cell Phone Service
While some students may come to the U.S. with a cell phone from their home country, many students elect to switch to a U.S. carrier since it will be more affordable and convenient. There are a number of providers in the area (Verizon, T-Mobile, AT&T, Sprint) that provide cellular phone service.

It can be challenging to decide which company to choose, as well as which cell phone plan is best. In some cases, students may be able to purchase a U.S. cell phone online, from their home country, prior to coming to the U.S. For more information about cell phones, refer to our website at: http://www.princeton.edu/intlctr/davis-ic-home/practical-matters/

Banking
For safety and convenience, it is advised that you keep your money in a local bank while studying at Princeton. Many banks will provide special services or accounts for students. There are several banks within walking distance of the University where you can open a Checking or a Savings account during regular banking hours.

In the U.S., there is a distinction between Checking and Savings accounts. Checking accounts may or may not accrue interest, while savings accounts always do. The differences between various banks are minor, but their services and policies change from time to time. More information about banking opportunities will be provided during the International Student Orientations and is available on our website at: http://www.princeton.edu/intlctr/davis-ic-home/practical-matters/

Social Security Number (SSN)
If you will work or receive any wages while in the U.S., you will be required to apply for a Social Security Number (SSN) for payment purposes. If you are eligible to apply for an SSN, you must visit the Social Security Administration http://www.ssa.gov/, located in Trenton, NJ, about 35 minutes southwest of Princeton - accessible via train or bus. You must have a job offer/letter from your on-campus employer to apply for as SSN. You are not eligible to apply for an SSN until you arrive in the U.S. and have secured on-campus employment.

You will receive more information on how to apply for an SSN during the International Student Orientations and you can find more information on our website at: http://www.princeton.edu/intlctr/davis-ic-home/taxes-social-security/

Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
Graduate students with fellowships are not eligible to apply for a Social Security number. Instead, students with fellowships or scholarships will receive further instructions on applying for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) during the International Student Orientation programs.
University Tax Compliance – Glacier Payroll System

GLACIER online Payroll System – During the month of August, new international students who are receiving funding or payments from Princeton University will receive an email from support@online-tax.net with a subject line of Payments from Princeton University. This email is from the GLACIER payroll system, and contains log-in and password information that will allow you to access the system. GLACIER is a non-resident alien tax compliance system that uses information you enter online to determine your foreign national residency status, determine your eligibility for tax treaty benefits, and generate tax compliance documents. You will receive more detailed information from the Non-Resident Alien (NRA) Tax Compliance Department during International Orientation.

Detailed information about U.S. Federal Tax compliance for non-resident aliens is available on our website at:
http://www.princeton.edu/intlctr/davis-ic-home/taxes-social-security/

New Jersey Drivers License

If you will be on an F-1 or J-1 student for more than a year, and you wish to drive in the U.S., New Jersey requires that you obtain a New Jersey driver license within 60 days of moving to New Jersey. This means that your home country driver license or International Driving Permit is only valid for two months, provided that your country is a member of the United Nations Convention on Road Traffic and your license is translated into English by a consulate or an MVC approved translator.

If you will be an F-1 or J-1 student for less than 1 year, you may use your valid home country or International Driving Permit throughout your stay. If you do not have a valid driver license, and you wish to drive in the U.S., you may apply for a New Jersey license. To apply for a New Jersey driver license you will need either a Social Security Number or a letter from the Social Security Administration indicating you are not eligible for a Social Security Number.

For further details about MVC rules and procedures, please consult the MVC website
http://www.state.nj.us/mvc/.

CHAPTER 9: Information for Married Students & Families

F-2 or J-2 Dependent Visa Status: Married students who wish to have their families join them on a dependent F-2 or J-2 visa must document sufficient funding for their living expenses.

For further details about bringing family members on dependent visas, see

Spouse Employment and Study:

• An F-1 student’s dependent spouse, who is in F-2 visa status, is NOT allowed to study full-time in the U.S. Furthermore, an F-2 dependent is not permitted to engage in any kind of employment under any circumstances. If an F-2 dependent wishes to engage in full-time studies, or studies that are more than recreational in scope, s/he must change status to F-1.

• A J-1 student’s dependent spouse, who is in J-2 visa status, may apply to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for permission to work if s/he meets the application criteria. Spouses with J-2 status who want to apply for work permission while in the U.S. should consult with the Davis IC upon their arrival. J-2 dependents are allowed to study part-time or full-time in the U.S.
Consult our website for more information about Dependents & Families:
• Social Security Numbers and Drivers Licenses for Dependents
• Enrolling your Children in Daycare and Local Schools
• A University Tiger Card for Dependents
• Auditing a Princeton University Class
• And More
http://www.princeton.edu/intlctr/isppu/

ISPPU (International Spouses and Partners of Princeton University):
ISPPU is an organization created by and for the spouses and partners of Princeton University’s international scholars and graduate students. As the official sponsor of ISPPU, the Davis International Center provides guidance and support to the organization. ISPPU develops supportive activities and programs in which you can meet other spouses and partners and build relationships. You will learn helpful information about living in the U.S, make friends, and have fun! Many activities include families and children.

HOW TO JOIN ISPPU: Please email isppu@princeton.edu and we will add you to the ISPPU mailing list. Check out the ISPPU Calendar of Activities and join ISPPU on Facebook! For more information: http://www.princeton.edu/intlctr/isppu/
Princeton University - Davis International Center

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Princeton University

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Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST

Summer Office Hours (June-August):
Monday through Friday
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM EST